IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David W. LEUNG et al.

Title: METHOD OF SCREENING COMPOUNDS THAT INHIBIT

LYSOPHOSPHATIDIC ACID ACYLTRANSFERASE

Prior Appl. No.: 09/970,989

Prior Appl. Filing Date: 10/05/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Continuing Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this document.